

# FORTERRA

LAND FOR GOOD

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May 3, 2022

Re: Support for Arrowhead Property Conservation

Dear Laura Moxham,

Forterra enthusiastically supports the conservation of the Arrowhead Property and its inclusion in Saint Edwards State Park. We enthusiastically support Washington State Parks in its efforts to secure funding to support the public acquisition of this important property. This is an incredible opportunity to add a critical piece of land to St. Edward State Park, which will increase access to the State Park, will expand the network of open space in the region, and will permanently protect this critical undeveloped property along Lake Washington.

We are pleased to support the funding request in this grant application, which will be used in combination with funding that has already been secured through King County's Conservation Futures Program and King County Flood Control District's Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

The hilly terrain showcases mature native forest of Douglas fir, madrone, alder, and cedar and Salal and sword fern carpet the understory. A variety of wildlife species inhabit the property and are documented by the students and faculty at UW-Bothell. These studies have confirmed that river otters, bobcat, and other species benefit from the habitat refugia provided by the State Park and the Arrowhead property. This educational opportunity provides students a local, urban forest in which to study how wildlife interact with and utilize the urban landscape.

The Arrowhead property would be an important conservation target on its own, but its presence within the network of open space in the region magnifies its benefits to wildlife. The property also includes 880 feet of stream that flows into Lake Washington and 245 of natural shoreline along Lake Washington, which provides habitat for many species, including salmon, herons, and otters. Undeveloped shore of Lake Washington is a rare and invaluable resource, and only a few unprotected locations remain. We encourage you to fully support this project.

Sincerely,



Michael Storace

David Stokes  
University of Washington Bothell

May 3, 2022

Re: Conservation of the Arrowhead Property



Dear Washington State Parks,

I am a biologist and have studied the wildlife in St. Edward State Park and surrounding areas for nearly four years. The results of this research, most recently summarized in a report to Washington State Parks (Stokes et al. 2020), demonstrate on the one hand that St. Edward State Park harbors an exceptional diversity of native wildlife species, and on the other hand, that if many of these species are to persist in the future, active conservation and management measures are needed.

One of the most important measures to increase the likelihood of species persistence recommended in our 2020 report is protection of high-value habitat adjacent to the park (p. 73). Acquisition of the Arrowhead Property would add a significant amount of high-value wildlife habitat to St. Edward Park. Based on our wildlife studies in the park, we have found that riparian areas, areas of mature forest, areas far from busy roads, and lakeshore habitats are especially valuable for many native species, particularly those most threatened by urbanization—including bobcat, Douglas squirrel, flying squirrel (which we first documented in early 2020), and river otter. Even the more generalist species such as black-tailed deer and coyote depend on these higher quality habitats for critical functions, such as raising young. Acquisition of the Arrowhead property would substantially add to all of these most important habitat types in the park, and to the prospects of these species' persistence.

A camera trap survey of the Arrowhead property that I conducted in Spring 2020 (Stokes 2020) confirmed the presence on the property of many of the native species that are found in St. Edward, including bobcat, Douglas squirrel, mountain beaver, coyote, raccoon, deer mouse, and black-tailed deer, as well as diverse native bird species. The diversity of species I detected, and the activity levels of the five largest mammal species suggest that habitat quality on the Arrowhead property is similar to that of the highest quality habitat in interior areas of St. Edward State Park. Based on these results, and my observations of the habitat, I conclude that the Arrowhead property is high quality habitat with high value for native wildlife.

Furthermore, with its location along the northern boundary of the park, the Arrowhead property is part of a critical animal movement corridor providing connectivity to other habitats along the Sammamish Slough. The Arrowhead property's inclusion of both lakeshore and streams, which our research suggests are favored for movement by many species, adds to its value for connectivity. Given that St. Edward, by itself, is too small to support many of the species found there, maintaining this connectivity is essential to the persistence of many of the species currently found in the park.

In summary, from a wildlife conservation perspective, protection of the Arrowhead Property would significantly improve the prospects for persistence of much of the native animal diversity of St. Edward State Park.

Sincerely,



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David Stokes, PhD.  
Professor, Ecology and Conservation Biology  
Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences  
University of Washington Bothell  
18115 Campus Way NE  
Box 358530  
Bothell, WA 98011-8246 USA

phone: (425) 352-3665  
email: [dstokes@uw.edu](mailto:dstokes@uw.edu)

References:

Stokes, D.L. 2020. Camera Trap Study of Wildlife Presence on the Minard Property King County Parcel 1426049013. Report to Forterra. 17 pp. + Appendix.

Stokes, D.L, Le, K.P., Esquivel, H., and N.N. Samuelson 2020. Two-Year Camera Trap Study of Wildlife Presence in Saint Edward State Park with Special Reference to Habitat Connectivity and Human Disturbance: Findings and Management Recommendations. Report to Washington State Parks. 84 pp. + 3 Appendices.



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Laura Moxham  
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
1111 Israel Road SW  
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: Support for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds for  
Arrowhead Property Conservation

Dear Laura,

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust enthusiastically supports the conservation of the Arrowhead Property and its inclusion in St. Edward State Park. We enthusiastically support Washington State Parks and Forterra in their continued efforts to secure funding to support the public acquisition of this noteworthy property. This is an incredible opportunity to expand St. Edward State Park, which will increase access to this urban park and will permanently protect one of the last remaining ecologically-significant, undeveloped, forested properties on the shores of Lake Washington.

Please accept our strongest support for the request of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funding. The WWRP grant will be used in combination with funding that has already been secured through King County's Conservation Futures Program and King County Flood Control District's Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

Preservation of this property at St. Edward State Park brings an exciting new opportunity for public access and environmental education in a spectacular natural setting. The hilly terrain showcases mature native forest of Douglas fir, madrone, alder and cedar. Salal and sword fern carpet the understory. A variety of wildlife species inhabit the property and are documented by the students and faculty at University of Washington, Bothell. These studies have confirmed that river otters, bobcat, and other species benefit from the habitat refugia provided by the state park and the Arrowhead property. This park provides students at the future Environmental Education and Research Center (soon to be located at this park) a local, urban forest in which to study how wildlife interact with and utilize the urban landscape.

The Arrowhead property would be an important conservation target on its own. Being contiguous with the state park magnifies its benefits to wildlife. The property also includes 880 feet of stream that flows into Lake Washington. The property has 245 of natural shore, which provides habitat for many species, including salmon, herons, and otters. Undeveloped shore of Lake Washington is a rare and invaluable resource, and only a few unprotected locations remain. We encourage you to fully support this project.

(\*) Executive Committee Member  
(X) Ex-Officio (non-voting) Director

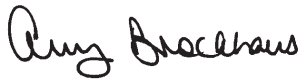
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St. Edward State Park is situated in the newly-designated Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area and in the state's largest population center. The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust serves as the coordinating entity of this heritage area, and has a 30-year history of successful collaborations with educational institutions, government agencies, businesses and diverse citizen interests to conserve and enhance the landscape from Seattle across the Cascades to central Washington, working toward a long-term balance between people and nature.

On behalf of the entire Mountains to Sound Greenway coalition and broad network of organizational partners, please accept our strongest support for a WWRP grant that will accomplish this once-in-a-lifetime acquisition opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amy Brockhaus". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy Brockhaus  
Deputy Director

cc: Michael Storace, Forterra



May 3, 2022

Laura Moxham  
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504

Re: Support for Arrowhead Property Conservation

Dear Ms. Moxham,

The Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance enthusiastically supports the conservation of the Arrowhead Property and its inclusion in the St. Edward State Park, and it supports the efforts of Washington State Parks and Forterra to secure funding to support the acquisition of the project. This is an incredible opportunity to add an important piece of land to St. Edward State Park, which will increase access to the State Park, will expand the network of open space in the region, and will permanently protect this critical undeveloped property along Lake Washington.

We are pleased to support the funding request in this grant application, which will be used in combination with funding that has already been secured through King County's Conservation Futures Program and King County Flood Control District's Cooperative Watershed Management Program.

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Sincerely,

Scott Morris  
President  
Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance